





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

NOW: 7 BRAND NEW EXCLUSIVE FEATURES TAKES INCHES OFF YOUR WAIST—LINE INSTANTLY. PROVIDE VITAL BACK SUPPORT!

New design overcomes figure faults—Automatic adjustments insure custom made fit!

STREAMLINE YOUR WAISTLINE

Here you have the "rave" girdle of modern times. For the first time one light weight garment overcomes body faults automatically. It marks the passing of the old-fashioned "HARNESS" because it supports so comfortably and is easy to wear. Never before such figure magic! Slim-A-Waist molds your problems away. Inches gone from the waist, a flat, youthful tummy, posture erect, back straight, chest high for that youthful "taller and slimmer" look—all this with complete freedom, comfort and assurance of smooth curved lines to glamorize all your clothes.

CUSTOM-MADE FIT

Easily draw the side tabs at the waistline to your own most comfortable fit. They hold automatically and reveal your new alluring figure. Marvelous new sensation as your back is supported and you naturally assume a more healthful and beautiful posture.

VITAL BACK SUPPORT

Never before has there been such a wonderfully effective garment as this! A miracle-working waist-whittler, with a newly created back support! You'll feel comfortable all day! Gone is that drawn and haggard look caused by aching back. Your entire figure takes on new beauty, for your straighter posture gives you a lovelier bust-line too! You'll find figure glamour combined with back support and more healthful posture than you ever dreamed possible! Beautifully made of fine long wearing broadcloth gently boned with the patented gliding back and elastic "V" inserts that breathe with you. A long line adjustable garters.

FEATURES

- streamlined waistline
- flatten tummy
- vital back support
- concealed boning
- front closing
- tabs for adjustment to perfect fit
- elastic "V" inserts

NEW FASHION APPEAL

Slim-A-Waist meets all the new styles which demand a flat tummy, narrow waist and flared hip line. Its vital back support always keeps you looking straight, slim and erect and gives you that good posture necessary in a lovely woman. Illustrations above show the wonderful change made possible by wearing Slim-A-Waist.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

Order today at our risk. Wear it 10 days free. If not delighted return for refund.

Waist 24-35	only \$3.98
Waist 36-44	\$4.98
Extra garters	50c

SLIM-A-WAIST

ONLY
3.98

SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED
OR YOUR MONEY
BACK IN 10 DAYS

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

S. J. WEGMAN CO. DEPT. SA-97
LYNDBROOK, NEW YORK

Rush my new 3-in-1 Slim-A-Waist at once. If I am not delighted I may return it after 10 Days Free Trial for prompt refund of full purchase price.

Size _____ Waist size in inches

- ☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.
- ☐ I enclose payment. The S. J. Wegman Co. will pay postage. Same money back guarantee.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

ROMANTIC STORY

Published Quarterly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class Mailing privileges authorized and postage paid at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues \$1.20. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Not Mailable at retail as published and at full cover price. It is a violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price. (Printed in U.S.A.)

Volume 1, Number 44

JULY, 1959

ROMANTIC STORY

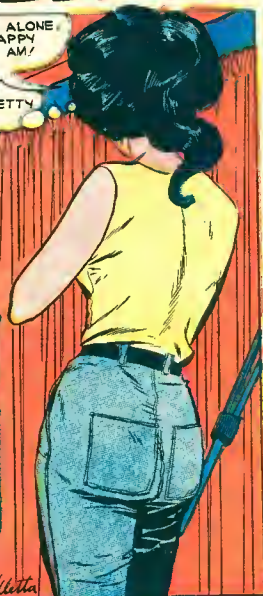
THE RAG - BAG

WHEN RONNIE GIBBS AND I BECAME PARTNERS IN OUR SMALL PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO, I TOLD MYSELF IT WAS STRICTLY A BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP. I HAD TO REGARD IT THAT WAY. I WAS PLAIN AND TOLD MYSELF I WAS HAPPY THAT WAY. BUT LOVE DOESN'T LISTEN TO LOGIC AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE MY HEART WAS RULING MY HEAD!

I'LL TELL YOU WHY YOU DELIBERATELY DRESS LIKE A RAG-BAG AND DON'T MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO PRETTY UP! YOU'RE AFRAID! YOU GAVE UP!

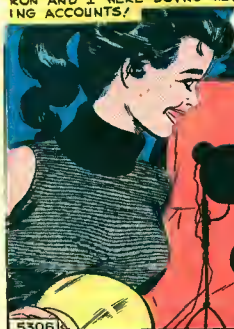
OH, LET ME ALONE. RON! I'M HAPPY THE WAY I AM!

BUT AM I? COULD I BE PRETTY IF I TRIED?



Collette

RON AND I WERE DOING WELL...PHOTOGRAPHING BEAUTIFUL GIRLS FOR ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS!



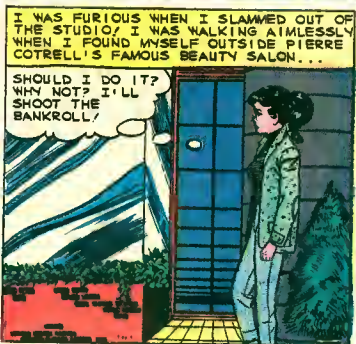
YOU PHOTOGRAPH BEAUTIFULLY, DEAR!

SO WOULD YOU, MISS SHORE, IF YOU'D...

FINISH IT! IF SHE'D STOP DRESSING LIKE A POTATO!



ROMANTIC STORY



ROMANTIC STORY

A FEW HOURS LATER, WITH LIPSTICK APPLIED, A NEW HAIRDO, AND A STUNNING NEW DRESS, I TIMIDLY APPROACHED THE MIRROR!

WELL, I'LL BE! I'M NOT SUCH A BATTLE AXE AFTER ALL! WAIT TILL RONNIE GIBBS SEES ME NOW!



RON NEARLY FAINTED WHEN I GOT BACK TO THE STUDIO! HE ACTUALLY DIDN'T KNOW ME AT FIRST!

IT CAN'T BE! JOY, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! YOU'RE GORGEOUS!



WELL, LET'S GET TO WORK! WE HAVE TO PHOTOGRAPH THE FASHION SHOW AT SIX!

DON'T! I'LL CARRY THAT! YOU'LL RUIN YOUR CLOTHES!

WE DID THE JOB... BUT RON DID ALL THE WORK! I USUALLY DID AT LEAST AS MUCH AS HE DID! ON THE WAY BACK TO THE STUDIO, WE STOPPED FOR DINNER...

YOU DIDN'T EVEN LET ME LIFT A FINGER TONIGHT-- ALL I'VE GOTTEN IS A NEW HAIRDO, NOT A BROKEN BACK...

MY PARTNER IS A LADY NOW, SO I'LL HAVE TO BE A GENTLEMAN!



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE



RECORD YOUR VOICE AT HOME

ONLY
\$6.98

**FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY**

FEATURES:

- Handy Portable Carrying Case
- Cuts Actual Records at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$, 45, or 78
- Sing, Tell Jokes, Record



MAKE YOUR OWN RECORDS ANYWHERE

Kids, now you can cut your own records at home. Sing, tell jokes, record secret conversations, speeches, take off your favorite shows and music, and it's all ready to play back instantly. Put your voice on records, or a pal's, or Mom & Dad's and then play it back at home, parties, gatherings, or wherever your family and friends gather.

IT'S FUN—IT'S REVOLUTIONARY IT'S ELECTRONIC

You receive complete recording equipment, including recording arm and head, microphone, tracking disc, cutting needles, and full supply of blank records. It all attaches to your phonograph, and you're all set to record what you like, where you like and when you like. Takes only 30 seconds, and anyone can operate it. Records at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$, 45 or 78 R.P.M.'s. Only \$6.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges. Additional blank recording disks are available from us at \$3.00 per package of 12.



10 DAY FREE TRIAL

Don't delay! Order now! Use this exciting recorder for parties, gatherings, recording sessions and just plain fun for 10 full days. Test it in your own home, and if you're not 100% delighted, simply return for prompt refund of the full purchase price. Only \$6.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Honor House Products Corp. Dept. DR-40
Lynbrook, New York

Rush my Voice Recorder at once. If I am not 100% delighted after 10 day free trial, I may return the merchandise for prompt refund of full purchase price.

- ☐ I enclose \$6.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus shipping charges.

Name _____
Address _____

DRAMATIC NEW FIGURE BEAUTY

- BEAUTIFIES THE FEMININE FIGURE
- DEVELOPS CHEST
- SLIMS WAIST—AIDS LEGS

ONLY
\$1.98

Now, through the famous Swedish method of "gentle" exercise that doctors recommend, you can develop a more beautiful form. Yes, just 10 minutes a day of this scientific development based on the modern up-to-date principles of smooth, equalized exercise allows you to make your measurements closer to the ideal feminine shape. Yes, follow our plan and you can actually give yourself the shape you desire—firm flesh where fat used to be—and new feminine beauty and allure. Legs, waist, chest, hips, all receive soothing, gentle toning and firming. Actually take inches off your waistline and hips with "Figure Control" exerciser and plan. Figure Control is fully adjustable—fully guaranteed. So, for a lovelier, healthier, more vibrant feeling, order now.



slims waist aids legs develops chest
10 DAY FREE TRIAL

A famous doctor says: "The improvements that can be expected from chest exercise are: (1) an improvement of the circulation of the blood in the breasts due to the pumping action of the chest muscles, (2) a thickening and development of the muscles upon which the breasts lie, (3) an increase of tone and elasticity of the muscles running towards the sides to give a shapeliness to the bust as a whole. And the fully illustrated instructions enable you to vary your exercises to whatever portion of your figure you wish to. So try "Figure Control" for 10 minutes a day in your own home. If after 10 days you don't begin to look better and feel better, then simply return for prompt refund of full purchase price. Only \$1.98 plus 25¢ shipping charges.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

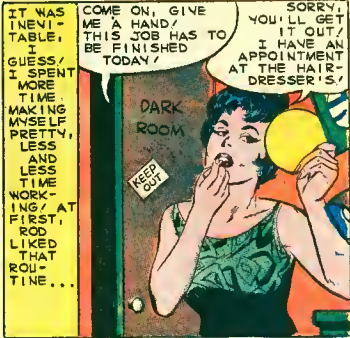
Honor House Products Corp. Dept. BD-56
Lynbrook, New York

Rush my "Figure Control" Swedish Method Beauty Developer at once. If I am not 100% delighted after 10 day free trial, I may return it for prompt refund of full purchase price.

- ☐ I enclose \$1.98 plus 25¢ shipping charges. Same Guarantee.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. plus shipping charges.

Name _____
Address _____

ROMANTIC STORY



ROMANTIC STORY



RON SET UP HIS OWN STUDIO RIGHT AWAY! I DIDN'T DO A THING FOR A MONTH, THEN I MET RON ON THE STREET!

I HEAR YOU'RE MOPING THESE DAYS! YOU'RE A QUITTER TOO! I'M GOING TO WIN THE REGENCY CONTRACT, YOU KNOW! YOUR TYPE STUFF, TOO!

NO, YOU'RE NOT! I'LL TAKE MY LITTLE BROWNIE OUT OF THE MOTH-BALLS AND BEAT YOU ANY DAY!



I'D BEEN IN A DAZE--BUT I CAME OUT OF IT ONCE I WENT TO WORK! I FORGOT ABOUT APPEARANCES ONCE MORE!



I SUBMITTED MY SAMPLES AND WAITED! I WAS ASKED TO APPEAR IN THE REGENCY OFFICE A WEEK LATER...



WELL, WELL! LOOK WHO'S HERE! CLEANING CHIMNEYS THIS WEEK, I SUPPOSE!

NO, DARLING, STEALING CONTRACTS FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE!

WE'LL AWARD THE CONTRACT TO BOTH OF YOU--OR ELSE SOMEONE ELSE! WILL YOU ACCEPT IT TOGETHER?

ALL RIGHT! I GUESS WE CAN WORK TOGETHER!



I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE ON BREAKING UP AGAIN! HOW ABOUT MAKING IT A HUSBAND- AND- WIFE CONTRACT? I'VE LOVED YOU ALL ALONG, JOY!

KISS ME AND I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!



ROMANTIC STORY



RON AND I LOST NO TIME! WE GOT A LICENSE AND WE WERE MARRIED AS SOON AS THE LAW ALLOWED!

NOW, DRESS ANY WAY YOU PLEASE, DARLING! YOU'LL ALWAYS BE BEAUTIFUL TO ME!

I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, RON!



RON WAS SO SWEET! I STILL LOOKED LIKE A RAG-BAG, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T CARE! HE KISSED ME BEFORE I WENT UP TO OUR SUITE TO DRESS FOR DINNER!

I'LL BE DOWN IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR!



I WORKED LIKE MAD IN THAT HALF AN HOUR! AT LAST I WAS READY TO GO DOWN...

SHE DID IT AGAIN!



DARLING, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ONE MAN COULD BE SO LUCKY!



DON'T WORRY, DARLING, I WON'T BE AN EMPTY-HEADED CLOthes HORSE--BUT I'LL ALWAYS TRY TO LOOK WELL FOR YOU!

YOU WON'T HAVE TO TRY HARD, WOMAN! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!





CHARLTON
COMICS OFFER
VALUABLE PREMIUMS!

**HURRY!
ACT NOW!**

**LOOK FOR THE
RED CORNER
AND CDC!**



THIS OFFER IS NULL AND VOID IN ANY STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION WHERE, BY LAW OR REGULATION, NOW OR HEREINAFTER IN EFFECT, THE REDEMPTION OR ISSUANCE THEREOF IS EITHER PROHIBITED, TAXED, LICENSED OR IN ANY OTHER WAY RESTRICTED. THIS PREMIUM OFFER MAY BE MODIFIED WITHOUT NOTICE AND ARTICLES SUBSTITUTED WHENEVER WE DEEM IT NECESSARY.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
I ENCLOSE (NO STAMPS) _____
I WANT PREMIUM NUMBER _____

HERE'S WHAT YOU DO!

1 — FILL IN COUPON ON THIS PAGE!
(PLEASE PRINT)

2 — CUT OFF THE UPPER LEFT HAND
CORNER (CDC, TITLE, STAR)
FROM THE FRONT COVER.
(1 COVER CORNER FOR EACH PRIZE)

SEE ILLUSTRATION →



3 — SEND THE COUPON, CORNER, AND MONEY (NO STAMPS).
(ALLOW TWO WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.)

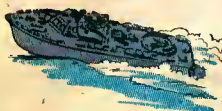
TO: **CHARLTON JACKPOT # ()**
BOX 25
PALISADES PARK, N.J.

← INSERT PREMIUM
NUMBER HERE

THIS OFFER LIMITED TO THE UNITED STATES, ITS POSSESSIONS, AND CANADA, EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1969.

-21 "War at Sea" P-T Boat

JET POWERED! ACTION FAST!



ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-22 "Six-Gun Hero" Water Pistols

TWO SIX-GUNS PLUS A SECRET "HIDE OUT" SLEEVE GUN!



ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-23 Magic Mile Binoculars

SPOT THE RUSTLERS! MAGNIFIES 2½ TIMES! HI-POWER GLASSES!

ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-24 4 United Nations Dolls

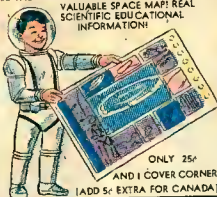
Each 3½" Tall

DRESSED IN THEIR NATIVE CLOTHES WITH MOVABLE ARMS AND LEGS AND EYES THAT OPEN AND CLOSE!

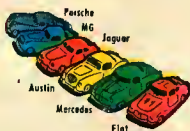
ONLY 50¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-25 "Outer Space" Map

BE THE FIRST ONE ON YOUR STREET WITH A VALUABLE SPACE MAP! REAL SCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION!



ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-26 6 Scale Model Sports Cars

Free turning wheels

ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-27 "Fightin' Army" Secret Weapon Tank

- Shoots bullets
- And secret jet of water



SENSATIONAL FOR ONLY 35¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-28 "Sweethearts" Personalized Silk Scarf

YOUR NAME ON RED, BLUE, YELLOW, OR WHITE SILK!

ONLY 35¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-29 "Attack" Water Submachine Gun

CAN HIT AT 20 FEET! HOLDS ALMOST ½ PINT!

LIGHTNING FAST! EASY TO LOAD!

ONLY 50¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-30 Personalized Set Of 6 Pencils

SET OF SIX WITH YOUR NAME, SCHOOL, FRIEND'S, OR CLUB NAME!

ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

Personalized Set Of 6 Pencils

-31 "Space Adventures" Binoculars

SPOT THE STARS AND PLANETS!

3 POWER!



ONLY 50¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-31 NOT ONE, OR TWO, BUT 52 Games

THE ENTIRE FAMILY CAN ENJOY THIS SET!

GAME OF INDIA • DOG RACE • CHINESE CHECKERS • AND MANY, MANY MORE!

ONLY \$1.00 AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-32 Nuclear Powered Speedboat

CHRIS-CRAFT MODEL AND WATER SKIER! RUNS 5 MIN. ON ONE FUELING!

ONLY 25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

-33 Giant Map

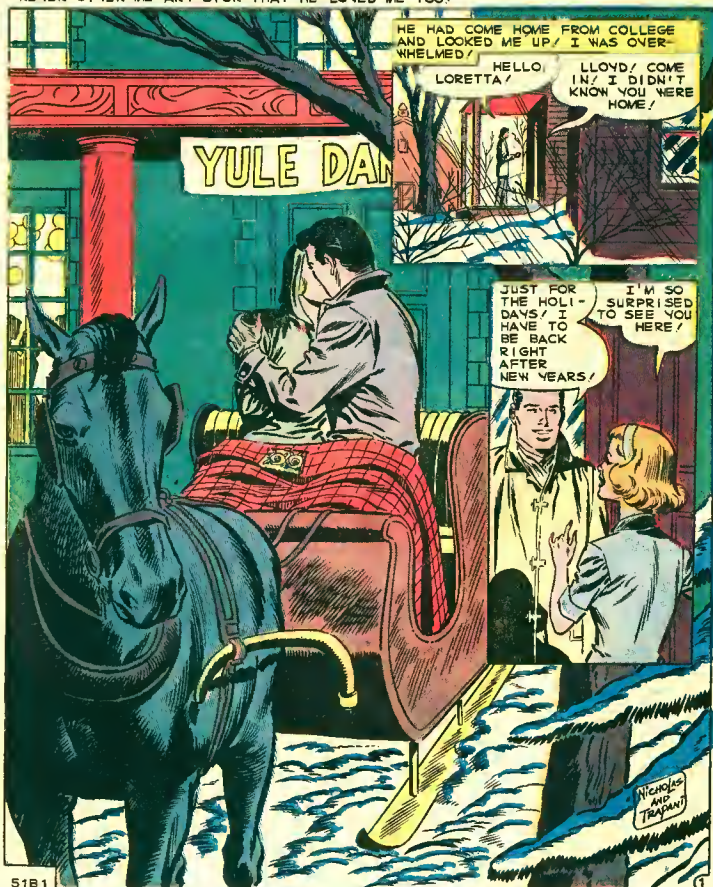
CHOICE OF UNITED STATES OR WORLD!
• (STATE CHOICE ON COUPON) •
25¢ AND 1 COVER CORNER

(ADD 5¢ EXTRA IF YOU LIVE IN CANADA)

ROMANTIC STORY

A PROMISE OF CAMELLIAS

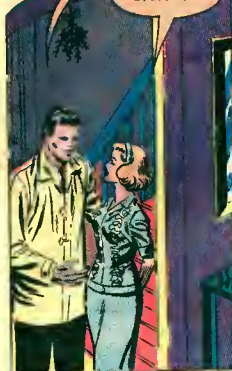
AS LONG AS I COULD REMEMBER I HAD ALWAYS LOVED LLOYD...LOVED HIM AT A DISTANCE, THAT IS, BECAUSE BEFORE THE NIGHT OF THE YULE DANCE, HE HAD NEVER GIVEN ME ANY SIGN THAT HE LOVED ME TOO!



ROMANTIC STORY

I KNOW YOU MUST THINK IT STRANGE POPPING IN ON YOU THIS WAY... BUT I WAS WONDERING WHETHER YOU WOULD GO TO THE YULE DANCE WITH ME?

THE YULE DANCE?

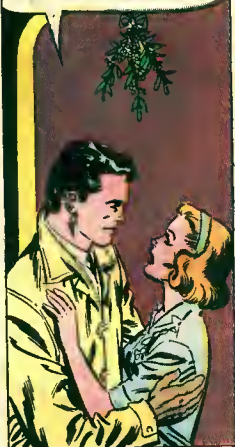


I COULDN'T BELIEVE THIS WAS HAPPENING TO ME! LLOYD HAD NEVER EVEN TAKEN ME OUT BEFORE AND NOW HE HAD ASKED ME TO THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!

I WOULD LOVE TO GO WITH YOU, LLOYD...



THEN IT'S SETTLED! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT?



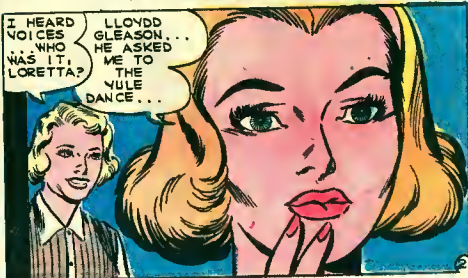
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE MADE SOME PROTEST OR SAID SOMETHING, BUT I WAS TOO BEWILDERED TO THINK! I JUST STOOD THERE WEAKLY AND WATCHED HIM LEAVE!

COULDN'T LET THAT MISTLETOE GO TO WASTE!



I HEARD VOICES... WHO WAS IT, LORETTA?

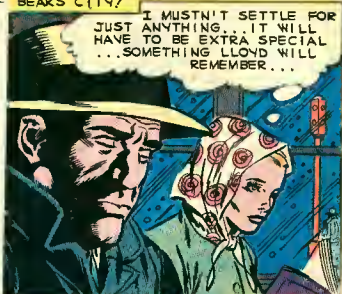
LLOYDD GLEASON... HE ASKED ME TO THE YULE DANCE...



ROMANTIC STORY



THE NEXT MORNING, IN SPITE OF MOTHER'S PROTESTS, I WAS OFF TO BEAKS CITY!



BUT IT WASN'T THAT EASY!



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

**BOYS • GIRLS
MEN • WOMEN**

**Boy and Girl Scouts
Camp Fire Girls - News Boys!**

PRIZES GIVEN

MAKE MONEY, TOO!

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page ... or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, air-rifles, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, model airplanes, scout equipment, movie machines, record players, and many others ... **ALL WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST.** You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need ON TRUST. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35¢ ... sell on sight. You can make big cash commissions or get many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Other prizes for selling 2 sets or more. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you Free.

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!



**HERE'S
HOW YOU GET
YOUR PRIZES**

Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship **At Once Prepaid** your first set of 24 Mottos on trust. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$9.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to **EARN MONEY**, send \$6.00 and keep \$2.40. Hurry, send **TODAY** for 24 Mottos **ON TRUST** and big Prize Catalog Free.

**FREE MEMBERSHIP in
FUNman's Fun Club**

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and I'll give you **FREE** a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—**PLUS** extra surprises!

**FREE
BIG
PRIZE
CATALOG**

**The FUNman, Dept. D-109
5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill.**

**FREE BIG PRIZE
CATALOG**

Please rush to me on 15-days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35¢ each. Also include big Prize Catalog **FREE**. I will remit amount required as explained in **BIG PRIZE CATALOG** within 30 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

Name

Street or RFD

Town Zone State

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!

ROMANTIC STORY

I TRUDGED THROUGH
STORE AFTER STORE
WITHOUT ANY LUCK!

THIS IS DREADFUL!
THIS IS THE LAST
PLACE LEFT!



AND THEN I SAW IT!

IT'S SENSATIONAL!
THAT'S THE DRESS
I WANT!



OH, THIS
DRESS IS TOO
LARGE! DOES
IT COME IN
A SMALLER
SIZE?

I'M
AFRAID
NOT! IT'S
THE ONLY
ONE WE
HAVE! YOU
COULD HAVE
IT ALTERED!



BUT I HAVE
TO HAVE IT
TONIGHT!

OUR ALTER-
ATION DE-
PARTMENT IS
PRETTY BUSY..
WELL...SINCE IT
SEEMS SO IMPORTANT
TO YOU, MAYBE I
CAN GET THEM TO
DO IT RIGHT AWAY!



SOON!
TAKE A FEW
HOURS.

THIS
WILL
ALL
RIGHT! I
STILL HAVE
TO GET
EVENING SHOES
AND A PURSE!

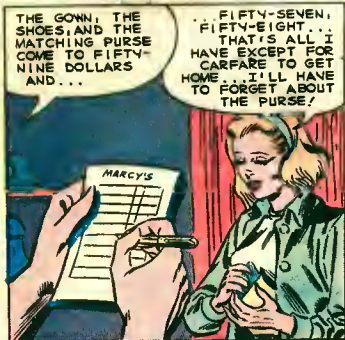


WAS OUR SEAM-
STRESS ABLE
TO HELP
YOU?

YES...
THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR HELP
...NOW I
HAVE TO GET MY
ACCESSORIES!



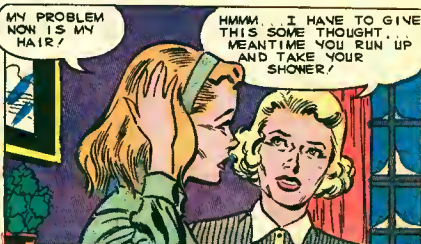
ROMANTIC STORY



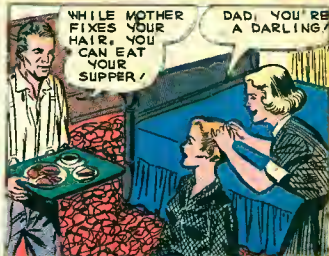
I WAS COLD, HUNGRY AND EXHAUSTED! I WOULD HAVE PROBABLY FALLEN ASLEEP ON THE BUS IF THE MEMORY OF LLOYD HADN'T KEPT ME AWAKE!



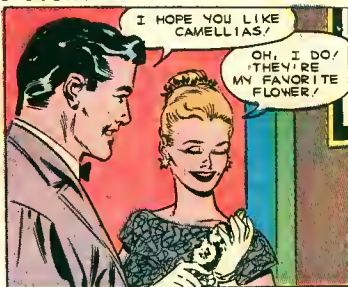
ROMANTIC STORY



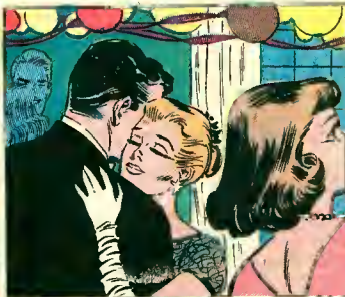
MOTHER WAS SO UNDERSTANDING! SHE KNEW HOW MUCH THIS DATE MEANT TO ME! EVEN DAD LENT A HELPING HAND!



ROMANTIC STORY



I HAD HOPED... I HAD DREAMED... I HAD EVEN DARED TO PRAY THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN SOME DAY... AND HERE I WAS IN THE WARMTH OF LLOYD'S ARMS! I WAS WEAK WITH HAPPINESS!



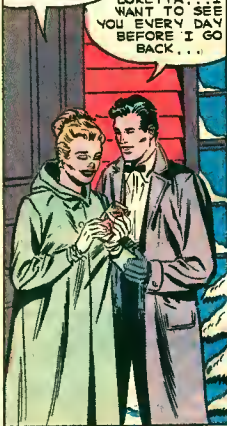
AND THEN, ALL TOO SOON, IT WAS OVER AND WE WERE RIDING HOME IN THE SLEIGH!



ROMANTIC STORY

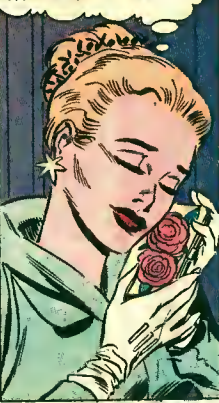
THESE
CAMELLIAS
ARE
BEAUTIFUL!

I'LL MAKE
SURE YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE THEM
LORETTA... I
WANT TO SEE
YOU EVERY DAY
BEFORE I GO
BACK...

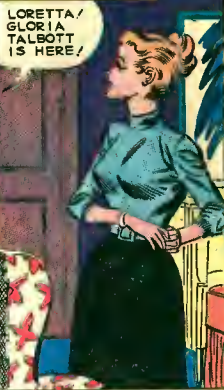


AFTER LLOYD LEFT...

HE CARES FOR ME... MY
DARLING LLOYD... THE
PROMISE OF CAMELLIAS
...HE WAS TRYING TO
SAY HE LOVED ME...



ALTHOUGH MY MIND WAS
FRAUGHT WITH THOUGHTS
OF LLOYD, I MANAGED TO
GET SOME REST AND THE
NEXT MORNING I WOKE
FRESH AND EAGER FOR
LLOYD'S CALL!



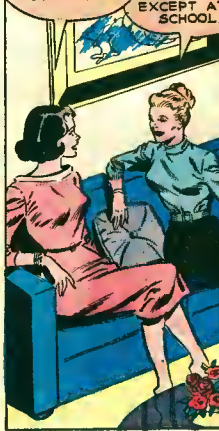
I'LL HANG
UP YOUR
COAT, GLORIA!

HOW HAVE
YOU BEEN,
GLORIA? I
HAVEN'T SEEN
YOU IN SOME-
TIME!



WENT TO
DEERSKILL
WITH THE
FAMILY FOR
TWO DAYS...
IT WAS MY
GRANDMOTHER'S
BIRTHDAY!

WELL, TO
WHAT DO I
ONE THIS
UNEXPECTED
VISIT? IT
SEEMS I
NEVER
SEE YOU
EXCEPT AT
SCHOOL!



I WAS VERY SUSPICIOUS
ABOUT THIS SUDDEN
VISIT FROM GLORIA. WE
HAD NEVER BEEN CLOSE
FRIENDS AND SOMEHOW I
FELT HER VISIT WAS
LINKED WITH MY DATING
LLOYD!

OH NO PARTIC-
ULAR REASON... SAY,
GUESS WHO CAME AROUND
TO SEE ME TWO DAYS
AGO?



ROMANTIC STORY

BEFORE GLORIA ANSWERED ME, I KNEW/
MY HEART SANK...

LLOYD! YOU
REMEMBER HOW HE USED TO FOLLOW ME
AROUND LIKE A PUPPY DOG BEFORE HE
WENT AWAY TO COLLEGE?

I
REMEMBER...



WELL AS SOON
AS HE GOT OFF
THE TRAIN HE
CAME RUSHING
OVER TO MY
HOUSE TO
ASK ME TO
THE VILLE
DANCE! CAN
YOU
IMAGINE!

OF COURSE, I HAD THIS TRIP TO
GRANDMA'S SO I COULDN'T GO..
NOT THAT I WANTED TO, MIND
YOU! I ALWAYS DID THINK
LLOYD GLEASON WAS A DRIP!



I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY ANY ONE WOULD GO OUT
WITH HIM! WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE TODDLING
ALONG...JUST WANTED TO STOP IN FOR A FEW
MINUTES AND WISH YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



YES...HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!

OH, HOW COULD HE DO
THIS TO ME? HE COULD
SEE I CARED FOR HIM!
NOW THAT GLORIA'S
BACK HE PROBABLY
WON'T EVEN SHOW UP
TODAY...OH THAT LINE
ABOUT THE CAMELLIAS..



RING!
IF THAT
IS
GLORIA
COMING
BACK TO
GLOAT...



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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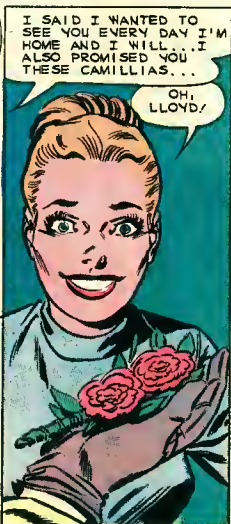
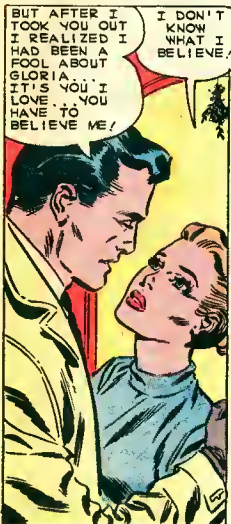
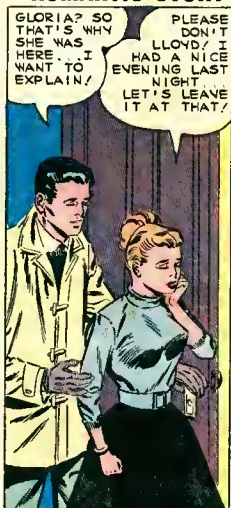
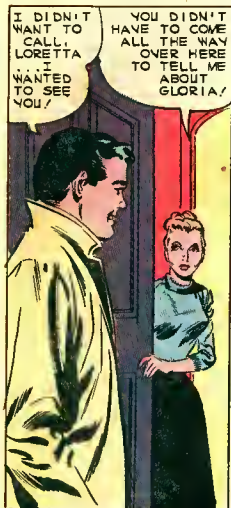
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ROMANTIC STORY



Love Has a Heart

One glance at Jean Tomilson's face and you could realize she must have been crying a long time. The tears had been dried away and make-up quickly applied, but the tell-tale red streaked eyes were a give away. The door to her room opened and she quickly turned around as though in a futile attempt to conceal the half packed valise on her bed.

"I thought you had more sense than that," scolded her aunt, Mrs. Lorraine Malloy. "There is an old saying you can run away from almost everything in this world — except yourself. Leaving won't solve the problem. It will merely transfer it to another place. Be a bit philosophic about it. A broken heart in Centerville isn't any different than thousands of broken hearts all over the country."

"How can you be that way about it," almost sobbed Jean. "I can't stay here any longer. What am I supposed to do? With me away, John will marry Doris."

"The newspaper will probably give them a full page spread on the society section," smiled her aunt. "And why not? After all, Doris' father happens to be the largest stockholder in the paper. So I can see the headline: Daughter of Leading Citizen is married. It will tell about Doris Leffer since the day she started teething — pictures of her at the different stages of life. They will also mention her many activities — President of the Junior Day Camp, President of the Centerville Charity Drive, President of the Annual Celebration Leagues, President of the Riding Club, President of the Golf Tournament, and more of the same. And then columns about her father and mother."

As for John Loret? It will mention that he is a rising young man. One who is bound to

make his mark in the financial world; not too much about the fact that he came from the other side of the track, nor will anybody dare breath a word that he really doesn't love Doris, and is marrying her somewhat in the old fashioned meaning of the term: Moral Obligation. Her father gave him his start. He took him from nothing and made him into something. It was the father who picked him as the future husband of his daughter."

Jean would have started crying all over again except for the physiological fact that her tear glands had been overworked. She just plumped herself down on the bed next to the half packed valise. She moved a pair of shoes aside.

"How could you be so cruel?" she finally sighed.

"Who is cruel to whom?" was the snapback of her aunt. "I am telling you the truth. In a world of fiction everything would be solved in the true romantic manner. Doris would tell John to go to you. Then you two would be married and live happily ever after. And knowing Doris, even in the land of fiction, she would find her own man."

So she is your best friend? But why? Because you helped her with her studies when she went to school. Because you gave her the push and drive she needed. You never took any credit for it, not asked anything in return.

And now comes the grand gesture. Silently you will fade out of their lives and go to some other towns, with, of course, that broken heart. And as the years pass you will have only memories, but not happy ones — only memories that are sad with overtones of what might have been. And those are the most tragic memories of all — what might have been! You will become a

miserable old maid. Now don't start any weeping."

For fully five minutes Jean remained almost motionless. She tried to speak but the words refused to go pass her lips. Finally she did manage to say something.

"I guess you are right."

"Then unpack right now," commanded her aunt. "We have to organize some spring cleaning for this house. I plan to invite my brother and his family here for the first two weeks in July. If they don't send the twins to camp, the children will enjoy the beach club."

"Which means I am elected to teach them some swimming if they come," concluded Jean who forced a little smile onto her otherwise saddened face. "Write and tell them to be certain to bring Frank and Donald. It will take my mind off a lot of other things."

Her aunt gently took her by her hand and the two left the room and went downstairs to the large living room that fronted on Marshal Street. Outside a few birds were flying from tree to tree as though to decide which would be the best tree for summer occupancy.

Jean opened the door to the patio and looked at the flowers that had been trimmed that morning by the gardener. Then she lifted her eyes to the sky. There was a small cloud on its way to some other city. First it was shapeless and then it began to take the form of a horse with a rider on it.

In Jean's imagination it became clearer. She could see the horse and rider in shining armor come down to earth. The rider dismounted. From nowhere there appeared a page who held the reins of the horse. The rider lifted his helmet and she saw the handsome face of John Loren.

This was as it should be in the ageless and timeless land of yesterday. Where our hopes and dreams finally come to rest, but where make-believe becomes important if only for a short while. The knight came closer and then bend down on one knee.

"I have told the King that I will not marry the Lady Doris," he said with full pride in each word. "That my heart belonged to another. He demanded her name and I told him it was you.

And so I am exiled to another kingdom. There I will dwell for full ten years, but will you go as my bride and face all the dangers of the future with me?"

Jean shook her head, not in the negative but to brush away the meave of dreams. She felt a hand touching her shoulder lightly. She turned around and there was John himself. Not a dream fantasy but all real. In a moment she was in his arms. They kissed and he held her tenderly. Then they parted and she cried for a few minutes. Not tears of sadness but tears of

joy. She sniffed and he took out his handkerchief and gently wiped away the tears that had managed to roll down her cheeks.

"Doris asked me but one question. She told me to think before I answered it and that the happiness of three people were intertwined in my reply. Was I in love with you? And what could I tell her? Only the truth. Just a three letter word. Yes.

She was magnificent about it and told me it would be ridiculous if the two of us were married without the mutual feeling of love. She wouldn't die of a broken heart nor pine away. Yet it does mean a lot of thinking. For we mustn't hurt her feelings.

I didn't come straight here. I put through a long distance call to Hawaii. Mr. Jessup who I met last year when he came to the states made me an offer. If I ever wanted to live in Hawaii and enjoy leisurely living to contact him. He would find a place for me either in his bank or in his canning company.

I told him I planned to stay there with my bride. First a honeymoon of two weeks and then we would take a plane. Is that all o.k. with you?"

Her answer was a big kiss and the little cloud overhead might have taken a peek down at the two happy lovers. For a moment the cloud did have a different shape. As though it were a horse with two riders, one a knight in shining armor and the other his lady fair.

Doris Leffer was facing a perplexed father in his oversized library room. The man who knew how to talk to ambassadors or giants of Industry was at a loss for what to say this time.

"You sent John away? But why? It doesn't make sense to me. Where could you get such an ideal husband?"

"Last question answered first," said Doris. "For a long time I will have a big choice of eligible men. Need I only mention Robert Winston, Herbert Swopen, Jr., or Sheldon Marsen? So, relax. I won't be an old maid. Within a year you will be giving me away.

It does make sense, dad. Sure, John was a wonderful man. But there are others like him in this world. You always said I had a practical head on my shoulders. John didn't love me. True, I loved him. But you can't have a happy successful marriage when love is just one sided. So I sent him to the girl he loves. That's the least I could do for Jean.

She did a lot for me. So let's say in a way I repaid the debt. They are in love with each other. What more is to be said?"

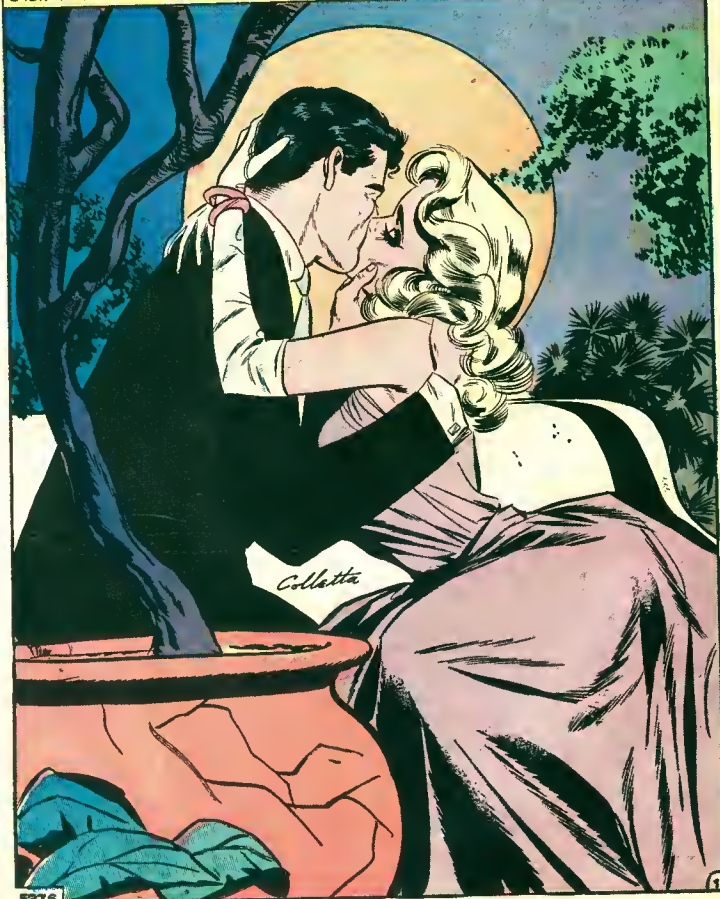
"Only this," smiled a very happy father. "I just learned that my only daughter does have a heart."

—THE END—

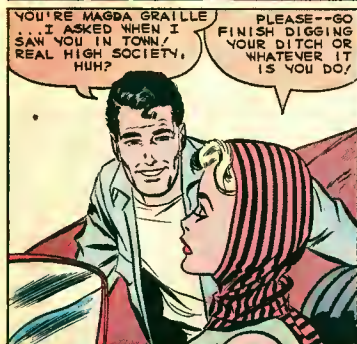
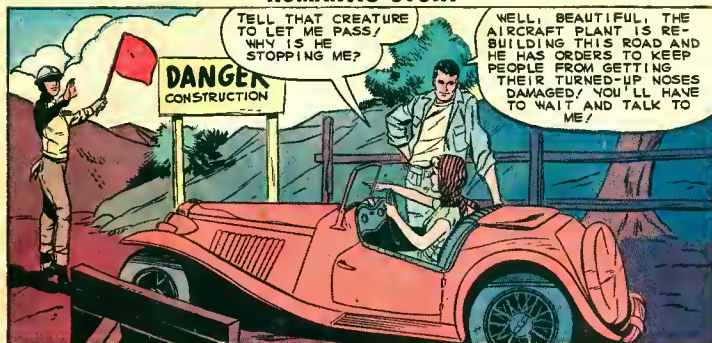
ROMANTIC STORY

RICH OR POOR

I WAS BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN MY MOUTH AND AFTER THAT CAME EVERY ADVANTAGE MONEY COULD BUY, UNTIL THE MONEY RAN OUT...AND I LEARNED THAT EVEN MONEY COULDN'T BUY HAPPINESS, THEN I MET STEVE...



ROMANTIC STORY



HE LAUGHED AND I WAS SORRY I'D SAID IT BECAUSE BENEATH THAT LAUGH THERE WAS ANGER!

I'M AN ENGINEER, MISS GRAILLE! STEVE ROMANO IS THE NAME! YOU CAN GO AHEAD NOW!

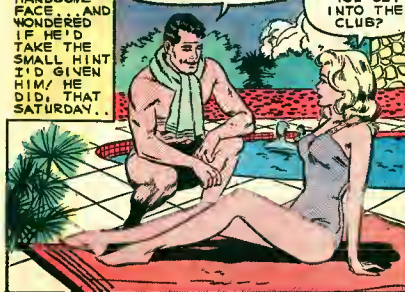
THANK YOU! I HATE TO BE LATE AT THE COUNTRY CLUB!



I KEPT REMEMBERING HIS TANNED HANDSOME FACE... AND WONDERED IF HE'D TAKE THE SMALL HINT I'D GIVEN HIM! HE DID, THAT SATURDAY...

HI! SO THIS IS HOW ROYALTY SPENDS THEIR WEEKENDS!

SOME-TIMES/ HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CLUB?

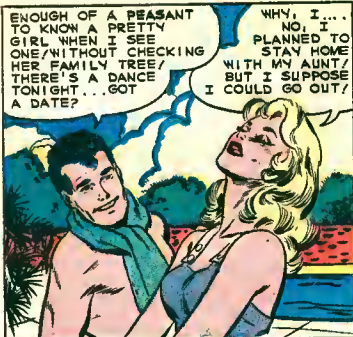


I HAVE FRIENDS, SWEETHEART! HAVE A SMOKE FROM A PEASANT?

THANKS! I'VE HEARD YOU'RE A PROMISING YOUNG MAN! NOT REALLY A PEASANT AT ALL!



ROMANTIC STORY



ENOUGH OF A PEASANT TO KNOW A PRETTY GIRL WHEN I SEE ONE/WITHOUT CHECKING HER FAMILY TREE/ THERE'S A DANCE TONIGHT...GOT A DATE?

WHY, I... NO, I... PLANNED TO STAY HOME WITH MY AUNT/ BUT I SUPPOSE I COULD GO OUT!

I TRIED NOT TO ADMIT IT TO MYSELF... BUT STEVE WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE BOYS I'D BEEN RAISED WITH/ I LOVED HIM FROM THE START...

WHO IS HE? I DON'T REMEMBER ANY ROMANO FAMILY OF ANY ACCOUNT!

WE'RE PRACTICALLY IMMIGRANTS, MISS GRAILLE/ NOT IN THE SOCIAL REGISTER AT ALL/ DITCHDIGGERS FROM WAY BACK!



DON'T BE NASTY, STEVE/ GOOD NIGHT, AUNT JANE!

GOOD NIGHT, MISS GRAILLE!



THE NIGHT WAS LOVELY... AND THE ORDEAL I DREADED WITH MY FRIENDS WASN'T AS BAD AS I'D EXPECTED!

THIS IS STEVE ROMANO... HE'S WITH THE NEW COMPANY!

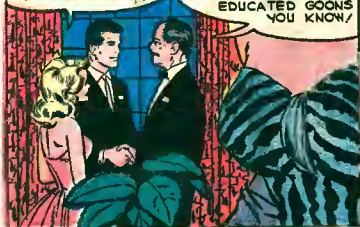
PLEASURE, ROMANO/ SAY, IF THEY NEED A LAWYER THERE, LET ME KNOW!



I WAS STUPID... PREPARED TO DEFEND STEVE FROM MY RICH FRIENDS, BUT THEY ACCEPTED HIM QUICKLY!

THIS IS STEVE ROMANO, JUDGE/ HE'S AN ENGINEER OR SOMETHING AT THE NEW PLANT!

GLAD TO KNOW YOU/ MAGDA, MR. ROMANO IS CHIEF ENGINEER THERE/ BETTER THAN THOSE EDUCATED GOONS YOU KNOW!



I... I GUESS I'VE BEEN WRONG, STEVE/ CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?



ANYTHING, DARLING/ LET'S JUST ENJOY THE MUSIC!

ROMANTIC STORY

IT WAS A DREAM THAT NIGHT... THERE WAS A MOON... AND STEVE AND I FORGOT THAT I WAS A GRAILLE WITH A POSITION TO MAINTAIN!

OH, STEVE, I'M... I'M SO CONFUSED!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MAGDA! I'M A LITTLE MIXED UP MYSELF... BUT I LOVE EVERY MINUTE OF IT!



LATER...

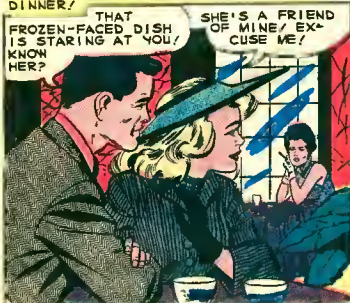
IT'S RIDICULOUS... BUT I DON'T CARE IF HE IS JUST A WORKING MAN!



STEVE CALLED LATER IN THE WEEK... AND I ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION TO DINNER.

THAT FROZEN-FACED DISH IS STARING AT YOU! KNOW HER?

SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE! EXCUSE ME!



MAGDA! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? HE'S COMMON!

LET HIM ALONE! STEVE IS A REAL MAN!



IN SPITE OF MY FRIEND'S CRUEL WORDS, STEVE AND I WOUND UP HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME! THAT NIGHT...

MAGDA, YOU MUST STOP THIS! REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!

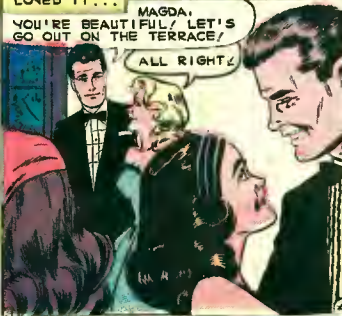
I KNOW, AUNT JANE! BUT HE'S NICE! NICER THAN THE ONES YOU CALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE!



WE SAW EACH OTHER REGULARLY AND I LOVED IT...

MAGDA, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! LET'S GO OUT ON THE TERRACE!

ALL RIGHT!



ROMANTIC STORY



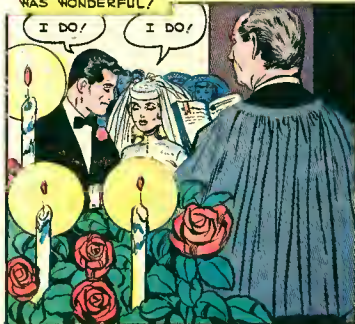
I TOLD MY AUNT LATER THAT NIGHT... AND I WAS SURPRISED AT HER REACTION!

SO YOU'RE MARRYING HIM? SMART GIRL! I FOUND OUT THAT HE EARNS A VERY NICE SALARY!

OH AUNT JANE!



WE WERE MARRIED IN MY HOME... A SELECTED FEW IN ATTENDANCE! STEVE WAS WONDERFUL!



AND YOU'LL LIVE HERE OF COURSE WHEN YOUR HONEYMOON IS OVER!

OF COURSE, AUNT JANE, I'VE ALREADY TOLD STEVE!



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ROMANTIC STORY

THE HONEYMOON WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT...BUT A CLOUD HUNG OVER BOTH OF US/ I TRIED TO IGNORE IT AND COULDN'T!



WITH EACH DAY THAT PASSED, MY HEART GREW HEAVIER...AND MY LOVE FOR STEVE GREATER!

STEVE, DO ME A FAVOR? CAN WE GO HOME TODAY?

IF YOU WANT TO, DARLING...BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME!



WE WERE...BUT MY CONSCIENCE TORMENTED ME/ I HAD TO GET HOME TO FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS!

PUT ME DOWN, STEVE/ WHAT WILL PEOPLE THINK?

THE TRUTH! THAT STEVE ROMANO LOVES HIS WIFE!



BEFORE WE GO IN...I LOVE YOU YOU, DARLING/ ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT!

REMINDE ME EVERY DAY/ IN THE SAME WAY!

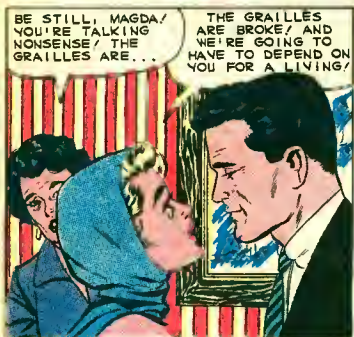
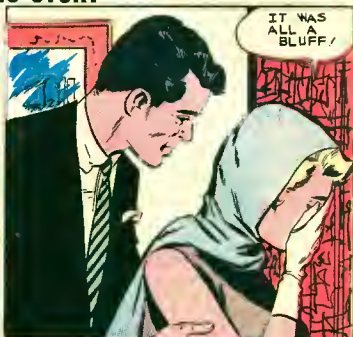
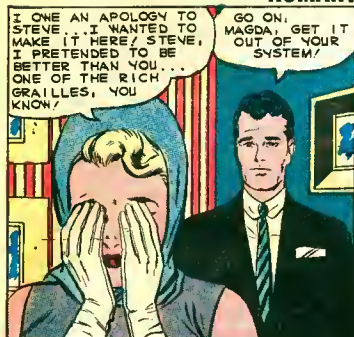


AND THEN WE WENT IN...INTO THE GENTEEL, WELL HIDDEN POVERTY OF MY HOME/ AUNT JANE WAS WAITING... NOTHING HAD CHANGED!

YOU TWO CAME HOME EARLY/ WAS IS ANYTHING WRONG?

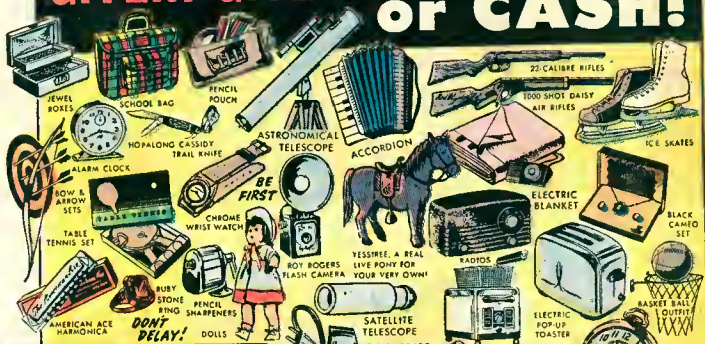


ROMANTIC STORY



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